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POPULATION, HEALTH & NUTRITION

ENHANCED AND RAPID IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH (ENRICH) PROJECT - HELEN KELLER INTERNATIONAL (HKI)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

EnRICH/HKI's goal is to reduce morbidity and mortality among under-five children and mothers in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) through:

- increased Vitamin A supplementation in the five provinces in ARMM (Lanao Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu) and Marawi City.
- strengthened health worker's skills in managing childhood illness through the implementation of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) strategy in Lanao del Sur, Basilan Tawi-Tawi and Marawi City.
- strengthened health worker's skills in the delivery of Family Planning services in the six pilot municipalities (Balabagan, Balindong, Saguwaran, Calanugas, Tamparan, Wao) of Lanao del Sur.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Founded in 1915 by Helen Keller to build local capability to prevent avoidable blindness and to provide services to help the incurably blind, HKI began work in the Philippines in 1978. In September 2002, HKI was given a two-year grant to implement the EnRICH Project in Lanao del Sur. In October 2004, the project was extended on September 2006.

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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

HKI's EnRICH Project implements a three-pronged strategy: 1) increasing Vitamin A supplementation, 2) strengthening health workers' capability in integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI), and 3) improving family planning service delivery. For the family planning component, HKI focuses its efforts in Lanao del Sur, one of the five ARMM provinces, while for the Vitamin A and IMCI components, HKI provides region-wide technical assistance.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increased Vitamin A coverage

- Coverage surveys on Vitamin A supplementation conducted in all provinces of ARMM from 2002 to 2004, the results showing a significant increase in Vitamin A coverage during the October distribution period
- Significant increase of proportion of children receiving Vitamin A capsules during the six months preceding the survey from 31.8% in 1998 to 50.5 % in 2003, according to the National Demographic and Health Surveys
- 1,132 health workers given technical updates on DOH Nutrition Policies and Guidelines on Supplementation

Strengthened health workers' skills in the delivery of family planning services

- 15 regional and provincial health program coordinators trained as trainers in FP Counseling
- 56 service providers and four Chiefs of Hospitals in the six pilot municipalities of Lanao del Sur trained in FP Counseling
- 13 tubal ligation and two no-scalpel vasectomy (NSV) operations performed during the conduct of a training course on surgical sterilization at Malabang District Hospital.
- 68 participants provided with NSV Orientation at Wao District Hospital, with 10 clients motivated to undergo the procedure
- An increasing trend in the contraceptive prevalence rate for modern methods in the six Lanao del Sur municipalities based on the monthly reports submitted by the health staff and based on the survey, 17.87% during the baseline survey in January 2003 and 24.9% in September 2004.

Strengthened health workers skills in managing childhood illness through the IMCI strategy

- 29 trainers/facilitators from DOH-ARMM and IPHO Lanao del Sur, Basilan and Tawi-tawi trained on the 11-day IMCI Course and the Facilitators' Course
- 18 health staff trained as IMCI supervisors
- 212 hospital staff from Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Marawi City oriented on the IMCI strategy to strengthen the two-way IMCI referral system between the Rural Health Units and the hospitals.
- 363 health workers trained on the IMCI Basic Course by the regional and provincial IMCI training teams with technical assistance from HKI
- 30 participants from the Lanao del Sur Provincial Health Office trained and organized as municipal trainers on Community IMCI.